<center>REMARKS</center>

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1–39 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1–39 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 15, 22, and 29–39 are amended herein.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM NUMBERING CORRECTION

Claims 30–37 and 39 have been amended to change their dependencies to be consistent with the Preliminary Amendment originally filed with the present specification. In the Preliminary Amendment, claims 30–39 (formerly 26–36) were renumbered but their dependencies were not amended to reflect the new claim numbers.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1–39 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Reeves. For reasons presented below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

<u>Reeves Does Not Compare Information on Primary Computer System With Information On Secondary Computer System</u>

As amended, claim 1, for example, recites "determining new identity information exists on the primary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be

performed by comparing identity information on the primary computer system with identity information on the secondary computer system". The rejection suggests that Reeves teaches "determining new identity information exists on the primary computer system" at column 9, lines 4-11.

Column 9, lines 4-11 of Reeves is part of a merge process shown in Figure 5. This merge process does not compare information of a primary computer (110, 112, 114, 116, per the rejection) with information of a secondary computer (pager 120 per the rejection). Rather, the process of Figure 5 merges one or two databases (user DB 110 and/or corporate master DB 112) into a *local* database 116 ("Merge contact lists process 114 [the process shown in Figure 5] updates personal information contact list database 116 with the user contact list information from user database 110", column 6, lines 12-14).

Consider also column 6, lines 28-37: "Merge contact lists process 114 is a two-step process. First, records from user database 110 are incorporated into personal manager contacts list 116. Second ... [114] incorporates corporate master database 112 into personal information manager contact list database 116" (emphasis added). According to the rejection, contact list 116 is part of the *primary computer system* (see the Office Action, page 3, lines 6). Therefore, it is impossible that Reeves is comparing information on the secondary computer with information in the primary computer. Instead, Reeves is comparing information on the primary computer (database(s) 110 and/or 112) with other information that is also on the primary computer (contact list 116).

Claims 1, 15, and 29 recite determining new identity information exists on the primary computer system and that a synchronization operation should be performed by comparing identity information on the primary computer system with identity information on the secondary computer system. Claims 22 and 38 recite determining

new rule information exists and that a synchronization operation should be performed by comparing rule information on the primary computer system with rule information on the secondary computer system. Reeves does not compare information on a primary computer with information on a secondary computer. Rather, Reeves compares information on a primary computer with information on the primary computer.

Reeves Secondary Computer Does Not Receive Less Identity Information

Claim 4 recites that "the representative database on the secondary computer system has less identity information than the primary database". According to Reeves, the contact information list 116 is in the format of the personal information manager on the pager 120. Therefore, there would be no reason to transfer less than all of the list 116. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Reeves Does Not Teach Or Suggest Rules Synchronization

Claims 22-28, 38, and 39 recite features related to synchronizing rules. The rejection suggests that determining new rule information exists is taught at column 5, lines 28-44, and column 8, lines 33-61. However, neither of the cited portions of Reeves mentions rules. The cited portions are in line with the scope of Reeves, which is entirely limited to working with contact information. At column 5, lines 28-44, Reeves only mentions contact information and contact records. At column 8, lines 33-61, Reeves only discusses a "method for converting an address book". Reeves does not mention or suggest features related to rules. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-28 and 38 is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 25 recites that "a conversion table used to convert the new rule information into the different format for the secondary computer system". As mentioned above, Reeves does not address rules. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.
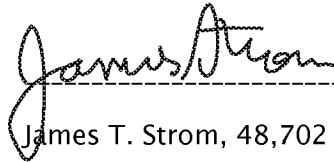
If this Amendment is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: 21 March 2006   By: _James T. Strom_ signature_

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Rimma N. Oks
Printed Name

Type of Response: Amendment
Application Number: 10/693,175
Attorney Docket Number: 306230.01
Filing Date: 23 October 2003